12/22/74

Mr. Steve Barber
London Telegraph
National Press Bldg.
Washington, D.C.

Dear Steve,

Often during the past month I've thought of what you may have forgotten, your perceptive and as it turned out crucial appreciation of my problem when I told you that Craftsman Press had broken its agreement to print Whitewash, taken the plates from the presses and destroyed them, and left me with a situation I then felt I would not be able to cope with sucessfully.

And of your efforts to attract London interests, from publishers to ancillary uses. If you've forgotten that, too, your efforts included a friend who was or had been in intelligence.

While all of this and more - and my indebtedness and I think that of the country because of the effect that book did have - has come to mind while I've been trying to address similar problems with the fourth of that series (the sixth on the general subject), what impels me to write now is having heard a short radio news item of today's Times story on the CIA and domestic intelligence. Suddenly a big deal when the story and probably more could have been written years ago. I'll bet I've had documentary proof of one aspect for more than seven years. And I know I could not interest several in the major media in other and Watergate-related and still unexposed aspects. More than a sense of deja-vu, though.

Remember you tried to get Mrs. Warner to book me for public appearances? She met with me in the Willard, we had several hours together, and she wound up afraid if apparently impressed.

Wordsworth was right about being the first. No speakers' bureau would ever book me. As a result the nuts and the self-seekers have had a paranoidal monopoly.

Anyway, the spook story made me think of you again. So I've laid down a sppok book a friend just sent me (KGB). I was just reading to ease the bursitis in the shoulders.

I don t live spooks, by the way. Rather in spite of them, I ~~rather~~ believe and think I'm close to proving. (Did I ever tell you that in a dignified, not cloak-and-dagger way I was one of yours?)

I got to thinking of the changes in a decade and in the attitudes reflected by the reaction and non-reaction to this new book.

Here are you and Bill Loeb, the two men without whom that book might never have appeared, and after the extensive and for the first time respectable treatment of a new book on the subject, neither of you has expressed an interest in it.

Were it not for two acute problems I'd have sent you both copies to begin with, as I have in the past. One is time, the other money.

The book was delayed by printers' carelessnesses. When it was finally off the bindery my colleague in it and I were deeply involved in the recent Ray evidentiary hearing and preparing for it. (Part of preparation is unprecedented discovery that will be before the Supreme Court if, after receiving arguments 1/6, it grants the State cert.) I finally got copies while cleaning up after the hearing. With no distribution and no funds for promotion, I had to try to get the book going. It had to be an in-between job and was but it has worked about as well as could be expected and I expect to pick up a fuller head of steam after the holidays. I had to get things going without even having copies! AP's story was without their having a copy. UPI and the Post did. There just was no time for other press copies and no thought of any where it could not be converted into sales because debt is oppressive and costly and I can do only so much.

My colleague, Jim Lesar, borrowed $6,000 to pay the printer. It is only part of the costs, of course. And we have paid 20% off.

The syndicated stories did what I'd hope for, attracted radio attention. So, I've been broadcasting by phone to those stations that called me. Only them because I can't

afford to either pay for the calls or travel.

I don't suppose your Sunday would go for this or I'd have heard from them. I've sold a non-exclusive use of the really hot Ford stuff in this country to a scandal sheet for close to enough to pay for a mailing. I'm hopeful, too, of selling other domestic rights. But with all the foreign interest in our spooks, when this book for the first time has it from the mouth of the chiefest spook of them all, Dulles, in an unequalled if unintended denunciation and exposure, I am disappointed at having no single inquiry. I did get a copy to Der Spiegel, which was interested in Whitewash but the copies were stolen from it back in 1966. And one to Harold Evans after Louis Heren's story on the CIA in England. One to Fred Emery in an effort to nudge Evans (unsuccessful). And a letter to deBausset, unanswered.

What is encouraging is that in the first two weeks I was able to have cash in hand to pay off 20% of what Jim Lesar borrowed, all because radio stations told listeners the price of the book by mail and my address when I broadcast. To date I have not done a single show I did in the past, either. For the first time this past week I was able to send them copies. Some, that is, a few. We are on that thin a shoestring.

Xmas is no time for such endeavors, so I've not booked a show until 1/5. This means the orders have slacked off and I can mail out other copies.

If you want one, please let me know and I'll send it.

On the chance you were out of town and in a city where the stories were not carried, I enclose a flyer. It will tell you a little.

If this sounds negative, I don't mean it that way. In part if it does it is from the past coming so heavily to mind with the disappointments of which I've mentioned only a few. In the long run and view, I'm encouraged. I believe that at worst we'll pay the bank off. And there is much encouragement, ranging from the good initial sales without having a cent to pay for selling to what I think reflects a changed major-media attitude.

With the media this covers from individual reporters who could put the book on their expense accounts and did to the total absence of any snide remarks or editorials or columns pooh-pooh-ing to the non-solicitation of any effort at refutation or inability to get a single one of which I know.

Please understand that I'm not sending out any automatic copies only because we can't afford it. Jim has been almost entirely without income. His pro bono work on the Ray case has been close to full-time and it is actually his first real court case. He is just getting started. My situation is as you knew it plus the question of time. If you want one I want you to have it. If you do not, I don't want to waste it. My income is restricted to the sale of the original books, without advertising to sell them. When we pay the printer off, these books will serve the same purpose. And I'm 61, so I can't expect any great breaks.

However, I do think you should have it. But I do not expect a story and if there were one I don't think it would help. AP and UPI get to England if the Post's service doesn't and I've had no single inquiry, if any paper printed a story. No story without an address would help and no paper will print an address.

The invitation still stands if you'd care to accept. We will be busy but one day over the holidays, the 26th. I think you'd enjoy hearing what has been happening in the Ray case and how it has happend.

Best regards,